



## WORLD AFFAIRS

## Geneva fails but quest for disarmament goes on

Both sides are of course to blame for the collapse of the Geneva INF missile talks.

Both the Americans and the Russians were far too late in deciding on specific rapprochement moves, although Moscow alone is to blame for the unnecessary breakdown.

The Bundestag majority in favour of missile deployment merely reaffirmed a Nato decision that had been a known fact for years.

There were cogent reasons for how the voting went in Bonn. The balance of power was at stake, and it is the sine qua non of any negotiated settlement. So was transatlantic trust.

Conversely, the many Social Democrats who voted against deployment did so to give political expression to a justified anxiety about the basis of security policy in Western public opinion.

In both cases it would be wrong to apportion blame. Everyone agrees that the quest for disarmament must continue. There is no way in which a stable balance of power can otherwise be ensured in the long term.

Defence capacity and success-oriented negotiations on arms control and disarmament have been equally important features of Nato policy since the 1969 Harmel Report. They still are.

They form part of a concept on which the Europeans insisted at the time, but the Soviet SS-20 and the US need to modernise have upset the balance to the detriment of detente as the target.

The time has now come to restore the balance. As in 1969, it will be an important task for the Europeans at the annual autumn round of Nato talks.

Bonn's all events plans to insist on readiness to keep up the political dialogue and the wide range of cooperation with the East being clearly expressed by the North Atlantic Council.

At the EEC summit in Athens it plans

to advocate a demonstration of joint determination on Europe's part in this connection.

Bonn will also be advocating a clear cause on negotiations when US Secretary of State George Shultz arrives in the German capital for talks on 6 December.

Mr Andropov's statement following the Soviet walk-out at Geneva has changed the framework conditions for the worse, but there are still enough rounds of talks still operative at which constructive work can be done.

The Start strategic arms reduction talks are continuing for the time being, and they are by no means a no-hoper, always assuming they don't get dragged into the vortex of the INF debacle.

The Vienna MBFR talks on mutual balanced force reductions in Central Europe, now in their 11th year, will whatever happens resume after the Christmas recess.

The Geneva disarmament talks are closely tied to reaching agreement on a ban on chemical weapons, while in Stockholm a European disarmament conference is to be launched on 17 January.

It is planned as working its way from security and confidence-building measures to specific disarmament moves in Europe.

The Stockholm conference in particular will show how keen East and West are on keeping up the dialogue between them.

The Bonn government plans a spate of diplomatic activity beforehand. It includes the talks held in East Berlin by Dr Friedrich Ruth, Bonn's disarmament delegate, and his encounters with other East Bloc experts.

Foreign Minister Genscher will be welcoming his Hungarian and Romanian opposite numbers to Bonn in the New Year. Further meetings at ministerial level are planned.

Wolfgang Bell  
(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 26 November 1983)

## East Bloc hits back with new weapons

Leading politicians in the East Bloc countries are none too happy with the decision they have reached.

Western diplomatic sources in Moscow note a number of specific points.

The Rumanian leader, Mr Ceausescu, for instance, has criticised both the US deployment plans and, directly, the Soviet ones.

Public opinion in the East Bloc countries will be hard to convince that US missiles make a nuclear war more probable, whereas Soviet missiles serve the sole purpose of preserving peace.

The Warsaw Pact countries, especially the ones where the new missiles are to be deployed, have had to accept the military decision.

Little imagination is needed to fancy that the GDR leaders too, while accepting the deployment of new Soviet nuclear missiles on military grounds, have found the idea a political headache.

The Moscow-led campaign against the nuclear arms build-up in the West (where it is encouraged by the Soviet Union) calling military and political decisions into question.

But there are a number of signs that

In Vienna the next meeting between Herr Genscher and Mr Gromyko has been mooted. But the crucial stimulus for successful negotiations must come from the superpowers themselves.

The only promising way of providing it is for them to resume their direct dialogue at high, not to say the highest, level.

Herr Genscher has suggested a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Stockholm to start the European disarmament conference.

That would provide an opportunity of holding the talks between Mr Shultz and Mr Gromyko that were cancelled last September.

The talks between the US and Soviet Foreign Ministers were envisaged as a precursor to a superpower summit meeting. A meeting between Mr Reagan and Mr Andropov is more urgently needed than ever.

That is what Herr Genscher mainly means when he says that the Stockholm conference could lend a stimulus to the resumption of negotiations on medium-range missiles.

Moscow's claim to monopoly, expressed in terms of the Soviet demand for consideration of British and French nuclear systems, remains the crucial threshold to a solution.

The SPD's rejection of missile deployment may not have called into question the consensus on foreign and security policy shared by the conventional Bundestag parties.

But if it didn't, there is every reason for the Social Democrats to return to the same end of the rope as the condition majority.

SPD views on strengthening conventional Nato defences would never be feasible without specific results in arms control and disarmament.

The coalition would do well to honour and take at face value the SPD's commitment to the foundations of common policy, such as Nato, Europe, the Bundeswehr and critical friendship with the USA.

This mutual consensus will then be even surer to outlaw the dispute over the deployment decision.

Wolfgang Bell  
(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 26 November 1983)

uneasy not only about US missiles but also about the extra missiles that are being deployed by the USSR.

The Soviet propaganda machine has unwittingly supplied arguments and fuelled anxiety on this score.

The nuclear clash, which as Moscow sees it would mainly take place in Germany, will be made all the worse by the deployment of fresh Soviet missiles in the GDR.

What can be said against the American missiles applies in equal measure to the Soviet ones.

In the Czechoslovak National Assembly in Prague views were voiced that ran counter to the declared Soviet viewpoint in favouring carrying on negotiations with the West even after missile deployment and not breaking off the Geneva talks.

But it wasn't a popular one, and what the West has been through politically in connection with the missile modernisation decision may yet lie ahead for the East.

The East must go ahead with nuclear arms policy, the Soviet Union would have decided as unreasonable and dangerous on America's part.

Many GDR and Czech citizens will be

## A tactical plus in staggering deployment

The Bundestag decision in favour of deploying the new American missiles in Germany has put an end to years of debate.

The decision that mattered was made at the Nato Council in 12 December 1982.

It would have been almost impossible without Bundestag approval to implement the deployment part of the two-track decision after the failure of the Geneva arms control talks.

The road is now clear for the stationing of Pershing 2 missiles in Germany.

Washington is still considering American and Italian proposals to amend this is not the only reason why the unannounced this intermission in the deployment debate marks the opportunity of negotiating a new phase. The many superpowers it entails.

According to the Washington several new security and domestic government officials have very different perspectives.

For one thing, it is now clear where Deliberations by the Bundestag parties stand. The SPD has formally

group, led by the No. 3 member, completed the about-turn from opposition, Richard S. Butz, to rejecting the deployment — included in a report to Nato.

The battery of nine Pershing 2 missiles to Germany after the extent to which the common play decision in favour of deployment of the SPD/FDP coalition on December.

Government officials at the SPD have been able to commit itself to unilateral nuclear disarmament without being involved as soft.

Yet many influential Congressmen in Washington have long ceased to feel that the Opposition SPD to Germany as firmly committed to Nato as vice.

Most experts are relieved to be able to commit themselves to unilateral nuclear disarmament without being involved as soft.

And the Soviets walked out of the Geneva arms control talks, as they had threatened to do if the missiles were deployed. The arms race is on again.

But the last word has not yet been spoken, and no-one knows whether the talking is really over.

The remaining Pershing 2s will be supplied at intervals of several months over a two-year period because faciliating them is slow going.

The remaining Pershing 2s will not be in position until 1986.

Ideas of putting this staggered supply to good use in negotiations were the conference table in Geneva in the New Year.

Besides, it is fairly clear in Washington that the Americans too have few ideas for the moment on the future course of events.

The pundits who have always argued that the Russians would not seriously until the first missiles were deployed in the West are now keen the going even tougher.

There are no facts yet to support the cautious rapprochement between the superpowers only got going early this year; the latest Russian move has been going even tougher.

The full envelopment of cruise missiles by the US experts, which is that the US delegation at the talks.

There is little consolation to be gained in the explanation put forward by a number of White House officials that Moscow will return to the conference table in Geneva in the New Year.

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But the risk of Russian lack of interest in the deployment of the missiles is felt to be fairly slight.

The final Soviet proposal before the Geneva talks broke down have created an impression in Washington that the Kremlin is interested in limiting missile modernisation for mainly military reasons.

Medium-range missile deployment by the US now begun is scheduled to take place over a five-year period, so the Russians might yet decide to negotiate a mutual reduction after all.

This gratifying turn of events would, however, presuppose that there is no serious public unrest in Western Europe.

Peter Seidler  
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 26 November 1983)

Klaus Arnsperger  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 25 November 1983)

## HOME AFFAIRS

### Missiles debate sharpens up party differences

#### DER TAGESPIEGEL

the Schmidt-Genscher government collapsed has become obvious.

FDP MP Helmut Schäfer, who once opposed the change of coalition partners, now says that many then misinterpreted Genscher. It was obvious now that Genscher was right.

In this respect, the CDU/CSU/FDP coalition has been strengthened still further by the deployment debate.

The insights in terms of security policy that have come from the deployment debate are even more important.

Moscow will now have to come to terms with the fact that its hope of stopping or delaying the deployment with the help of the peace movement and pacifists was illusory.

The Kremlin will have to re-draft its policy.

Many Moscow watchers predict that the politicians in the Politbüro will gain the upper hand over the military whom they will force to go along with a more accommodating course. In any event, Moscow now knows where it stands with the West.

There was hope throughout the Bun-

destag debate that the start of the deployment would not spell the end of the Geneva talks.

The debate also made it clear that the Bonn government is not prepared to forgo the security concept on which the two-track decision was based. It intends to follow through realistically and stick to the tenet that the ultimate goal of an arms buildup is to bring about an arms reduction.

Since it has become obvious that still non-existent Western missiles are useless in masking Moscow reduce its arsenal, the idea now is to achieve this by actually deploying the new systems.

The five years it will take before all the missiles are in place will provide scope for talks on a balanced arms limitation on the lowest possible level.

The debate has also demonstrated a qualitative change in security policy.

Arms debates have turned into disarmament debates.

Defence Minister Manfred Wörner: "The key to peace lies in the political sector." It is a combination of equal security and confidence building.

There is a definite chance that this will be realised in the East as well. As Helmut Schmidt put it, the more the nuclear buildup progresses the more people close ranks.

Peace movements in East and West have made politicians think and curbed the influence of the military.

The dominant mood in the debate was hope, overshadowing angst.

This is the most important asset in the generally positive balance sheet of the debate.

Heinz Günter Klein  
(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 November 1983)

Is it so hard to see that this political tug-of-war at home must harm this country interests of foreign policy?

British Gallup polls show that 48 per cent of the respondents in both Britain and West Germany reject deployment. The figure for Italy is 61 per cent.

The fact that the Western media do not conclude from this that the British and the Italians are also headed for a "national-neutralistic adventure" can only be noted with bitter resignation.

What is more important is the fact that the Bonn government now has every reason to seek broad acceptance of the Bundestag's approval of the deployment. The voters are probably not as undivided on this issue as the coalition's MPs.

But even if the Bundestag's decision had been made against the wish of the majority of the people, the answer still cannot be an extra-parliamentary opposition, as urged by the Greens.

This would not only create civil-war-like conditions in this country! It would also make Bonn's foreign policy position untenable.

What nobody could possibly have wished for has become a fact: the nuclear arsenal is being boosted and the buildup is taking place on German territory.

If ever there was a time for government and opposition to pull in the same direction this is it. But this means that both have to face facts.

The fact that Germany is seeking ways and means to overcome the deadly nuclear deterrence strategy does not mean that it is unreliable.

The search is simply due to the special situation of a divided country whose interests don't coincide with those of either of the superpowers.

One of the most important tasks for both the government and the opposition is to make this clear abroad.

Hans Werner Kettnerbach  
(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 24 November 1983)

## DEFENCE

## The reasoning behind the strategy behind the missiles deployment

**Süddeutsche Zeitung**

The Bundestag has voted to accept the new American missiles. There are no more obstacles to deployment.

The headquarters of the US 56th Field Artillery Brigade is a hive of activity. The combat alert site in the woods between Mülungen and Schwäbisch-Gmünd is being prepared to house the first nine Pershing 2s.

The Pershing 2 is the crux of the missile modernisation dispute in Germany. Some regard it as a necessary response to the Soviet SS-20 build-up.

Others say it is part of a US strategy of nuclear warfare in Europe and a weapon system that will bring the world much nearer the brink of nuclear war.

Both sides base their views on the technical features of the missile and the corresponding uses to which it can be put.

Its supporters say it will make Nato strategy more credible.

Opponents say deployment is the start of a new strategy hailing from Washington, and based on a belief that nuclear war can be waged and won.

The basic idea of Nato strategy is apparent from its name: the flexible response strategy. Its aim is to be able to respond suitably to any conceivable kind of attack.

But the aggressor must be kept guessing what Nato's response would be in any given situation. This, strategic planners hope, will have a twofold effect.

First, the aggressor would be unable to predict Western counter-measures. Second, he must realise that because the West might use nuclear weapons he is sure to be hit harder in return if he is first to attack.

In terms of the logic of flexible response Nato needs a full range of weapons and military options to use in response to any conceivable form of attack.

The existing Nato range (excluding France) comprises conventional forces, short- and medium-range nuclear weapons, stationed in Europe and, finally, the strategic nuclear potential of Britain and, above all, the United States.

If, the argument runs, a gap were to open up in the range of weapons available, a flexible and suitable response would no longer be possible.

Nato would either have to move up to the next highest level, a world war in the case of nuclear weapons, or to remain on the lower level and clearly signalise to the aggressor the limits of the risk he is running.

So those who argue that the Pershing 2 is necessary in terms of military strategy because it closes a gap in the spectrum of escalation are arguing along these lines.

This brings us logically to a further argument advanced by supporters of stationing medium-range missiles: a link in Nato strategy between conventional defence and strategic potential.

As the Bonn defence white paper published just over a month ago puts it:

"In the nuclear sector the effectiveness of the deterrent role of US nuclear

potential for Europe is ensured by the stationing of US nuclear weapons of varying range in Europe.

"The link with the strategic level is mainly established by weapons in Europe that are capable of reaching targets in the Soviet Union."

These two arguments of military policy apply in principle to other medium-range nuclear weapons too.

A third argument heard at Nato headquarters in Brussels, for instance, relates strictly to the Pershing 2 and brings us back from the abstract level of nuclear theory to specific thought about a possible war.

The Pershing 2 is suited by virtue of its target accuracy and its warhead's ability to bore deep into the earth, for destroying underground bunker targets.

It is not a matter of the headquarters of the Soviet political leaders.

The missile has a range of 1,800km, which means that from bases in Germany it cannot reach Moscow.

But the command centres of major Soviet army units (army groups, known in Soviet military parlance as fronts) could well be hit.

In the event of a Soviet attack a strike at these Soviet operational headquarters is clearly being considered as a realistic option by Nato in Brussels.

The aim is to knock out the leadership of attacking tank units, at least in the short term.

Other important Pershing targets are airfields, traffic junctions, river crossings and railway sidings where a large number of soldiers and a large amount of equipment will be concentrated at a given time.

The speed and target accuracy of the missile determine plans for its possible use within the framework of Nato's nuclear operations plan.

### Nato dilemma

This kind of target planning reveals a fundamental dilemma of Nato strategy. It is that nuclear weapons in Europe are viewed not only as political weapons aimed at impressing on a possible opponent the West's readiness and the risk of escalation and thereby achieving a deterrent effect.

The use of nuclear weapons is also intended "to support forward defence against an enemy offensive," as one of the concept's best-interpreters, political scientist Peter Stramann, puts it.

For the Soviet Union the Pershing is particularly menacing on account of its military usability. For Nato the choice is one of "use them or lose them."

"This diabolical mechanism," says Machtersheimer, "has something of the nature of an automatic detonator."

Those who fear the Pershing 2 as a first-use weapon are worried by what they feel is a change in US conceptional thinking. So are those who are critical of the missile because they rate it a too dangerous first-use weapon.

This change in US thinking is said to be demonstrated by documents such as the new 100/5 field regulations and defence guidelines for 1984 to 1988, in both of which nuclear weapons are assigned a role in the concept of warfare.

be keen to eliminate them as soon as possible.

If the Warsaw Pact takes the point of the flexible response, Pershing 2 should genuinely boost the deterrent effect. If not, the missile will, to say the least, not contribute toward stabilisation in any conceivable crisis, let alone war.

One popular line of argument against the Pershing 2 in the peace movement is constantly reiterated by a minority of Green MPs in the Bonn Bundestag.

In the United States, to quote Petru Kelly of the Greens, there is said to be a "tendency towards the first-strike strategy."

The Pershing 2, says fellow-MP and former Bundeswehr general Gert Bussmann, serves the purpose of paralysing the enemy's military and political leadership in a surprise strike.

The Soviet Union will then, in the next stage of the operation, be disarmed in nuclear terms by means of intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The Pershing 2 is mobile and able to achieve fulfilment.

As part of the transition from a deterrent to a warfare strategy the Pershing, he argues, has such a key role to play in the new concept that the United States can on no account afford to dispense with it.

This argument is not accepted by experts holding such different views as Defence Minister Manfred Wörner and peace research scientist Alfred Mechtersheimer.

They say the Pershing 2, with its range of 1,800km, can reach neither Moscow nor more than 10 per cent of the Soviet missile arsenal.

The 108 Pershing 2s intended for deployment in Europe are not enough to strike a crucial blow or paralyse the Soviet leadership.

Besides, the United States, it is noted, has offered to limit the number of Pershing 2s deployed to a mere handful at the Geneva talks.

"It is absolutely clear," says Mechtersheimer, "that the 108 Pershing 2s do not make up a first use potential. But the crucial point is that so-called missile modernisation is none the less dangerous for that."

He works on the assumption that the Pershing 2 is a danger by virtue of its character as a first-use weapon.

The Nato doctrine is to use nuclear weapons at an early stage in hostilities, and in the Pershing's case Nato is forced to use them at a very early stage.

"The Pershing as a land-based missile is very vulnerable," he says; "and its limited mobility in no way changes this state of affairs."

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## The Pershing

Design: two-stage ballistic missile  
Length: 10.55 metres (41 ft)  
Weight at take-off: roughly 12,000 kg (15,840 lb)  
Top speed: about 12 times the speed of sound after combustion second stage.

Maximum range: 1,800 km (1,100 miles), which the missile can travel between 10 and 14 minutes.

Target-finishing: inertial system section of the missile that once it has reached its target can be retracted so as to impact and after the two stages have been cast off, is generally accepted.

If the Kennedy, killed in Dallas 20 years ago, is generally accepted. He initially had the makings of a President, even though he had only two years foreign correspondents and America-watchers have been amazed at the gap between the qualifications selected US Presidents and the almost unimaginable high expectations placed in them and their job.

He had a premonition that he would die young, like the poets Novalis, Rimbaud and Byron.

Life was unfair, he once said at a press conference, but he made a point of being full of life and vigour, an infectious quality to which young people in particular were sensitive.

As his wife said after his death: "Now I realise I should have known. He was always a magician. I should have realised it couldn't last."

Against the background of dark events such as the Berlin crisis and the first (and so far only) genuine nuclear confrontation between the superpowers over Cuba, he sought to train the bright light of common sense on a world that seemed to him not to be sufficiently protected by the gloomy balance of terror from destroying itself.

To this day that mode him a modern man. "Kennedy's intelligence," James C. Dunnigan, a US general in the First World War, is still the case even though America under the present US administration is poles apart from Kennedy's America.

Strategic expert Hans Günter Kühl expresses this criticism in a single sentence in his book *Die Raketen im Krieg* ("The Missiles Are Coming"):

"The Nato flexible response strategy has, as a result of unilateral changes in US nuclear doctrine from a single-target strategy to a mutually assured destruction to a doctrine of limited potential use of nuclear weapons, brought about a fundamental change in the rule of nuclear weapons."

At Kennedy's request he was to recite a poem at the ceremonial induction of the President on the steps outside the White House.

Critics on this score attach considerable importance to the possible European initiation of nuclear war by virtue of the deployment of many different types of weapons in Europe and, above all, the fact that a poet can lend a helping hand.

Robert Frost, the grand old man of American poetry, at the age of 86 expected Kennedy's term of office to be a new epoch in which power and poetry were reconciled.

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On 20 January 1961 Washington was snowed under by a blizzard. The snow blew the sheets of paper with the poem drawn up for them on to the ground at the feet of the man who had just been sworn in.

President Kennedy bent down and picked up the poem.

It was a memorable and noteworthy moment.

Reston of the *New York Times* wrote, "made it virtually impossible for the European intelligentsia to remain anti-American."

It was not just that the new President chose to abide by the law of constant change to which he felt committed by his powerful sense of history.

For him America ought not to allow itself to be deprived of its birthright of revolution, a revolution that preceded the French, Russian and Chinese revolutions.

But the overriding point was to establish a bridgehead in the thicket of mutual distrust between the world powers so as to save mankind from the ever-present threat, as he saw it, of nuclear war.

Kennedy, who maintained toward himself the same detachment he showed to others, would not have called himself a martyr.

Oswald, 24, spent part of his life in Russia and had vague links with a pro-Castro group, but that in no way changed the impression that the assassination was an absurd and absolutely senseless act of individual madness.

He could also captivate the masses, his charismatic power of leadership was effective both at home and abroad, and his style was intellectually controlled, objective, precise, unemotional, style resembling dry humour andundeniable wit.

Clarification of the case was particularly hampered by Oswald himself being shot and killed by bar-owner Jack Ruby as he was being transferred from one prison to another.

But he was not just a darling of the God's. He had personal experience of

## PERSPECTIVE

### John F. Kennedy: the pieces that went to create a president and a legend

the nearness of death as a result of a wartime buck injury.

There was hardly a day when he didn't feel physical pain. He was only too aware of the fragile nature of human existence.

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President Kennedy felt it was the most important achievement, historically speaking, of his term in office. Prime Minister Nehru of India referred to it as a turning point in world affairs.

Kennedy quoted the old Chinese proverb of the first step on a journey of 1,000 miles: 1,000 miles to genuine deterrence that have yet to be covered.

Khrushchev also had a Chinese quotation at the ready. The paper tiger, he said, had nuclear teeth. A new style of thinking that bore the Kennedy hallmark emerged from this constellation.

It is far from useless to recall these ideas. They may arguably be referred to as the Kennedy potential of a common cause.

They surmounted the ideological approach that prevailed in the John Foster Dulles era and has returned to the fore in America today.

They dispensed with the moral claim to a monopoly and pretensions to be all-powerful and ever-present.

They appreciated the limits of American power, limits Kennedy was shamefully confronted with in the Bay of Pigs episode in his fourth month in office.

They tolerated other values and concepts of order, even Communist ones, and acknowledged the need to wait for solutions to mature.

"Peace is a process, the sum total of many acts," the President said, and he left behind a principle governing the philosophy of history that applied, or so he felt 20 years ago, to German reunification.

There were overlapping interests even when opposites seemed irreconcilable. When these interests grew stronger they could break the bounds of the contradictions that surrounded them. A new historic situation then obtained.

What has been said so far makes Kennedy out to have been a peacemaker. Ten years after his death a revisionist school of contemporary historians sought to arrive at an entirely different view of President Kennedy.

They now see him as the founder of detente, including German Ostpolitik and the detente policies of President Nixon and Secretary of State Kissinger.

He was now seen as the toughest of all cold warriors, to quote Gary Willis, a militant left-wing writer.

The crucial factor when it comes to history's judgement must be the view that is taken of Kennedy's relationship

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Yet Berlin was ever-present in the minds of planners in Washington. In consideration of Berlin as the first possible target of Soviet retaliation President Kennedy opted for a naval blockade of Cuba.

He preferred a relatively limited measure in response to Mr Khrushchev's deployment of medium-range Soviet missiles in Cuba. The Kremlin chose to beat a strategic retreat from the Caribbean.

In the wake of the Cuban crisis, in which the superpowers turned back just in time from the brink of a nuclear abyss, Kennedy's greatest, if short-lived, period began.

He embarked on detente, an aim that currently seems so distant again. On 10 June 1963 he made a speech at the American University in Washington D.C. announcing that talks would soon be held in Moscow on ending nuclear tests.

He saw an opportunity of using the calm that has descended on the Cold War. On 5 August 1963 the test ban treaty (banning all but underground tests) was signed.

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Kennedy quoted the old Chinese proverb

An organisation has been set up in Marburg to recondition equipment and send it to Third World countries. A parallel aim is to provide work for Germans.

*Technologie transfer Marburg in die Dritte Welt (TTM)* was based on an idea of the Marburg Labour Office and founded in conjunction with business interests in the city.

Its aim is to use equipment discarded by German companies as obsolete because of new technology, recondition and ship it out.

Many developing countries have decided that it is better to use simple but strong equipment rather than ultra-modern equipment needing highly trained technicians.

TTM reports offers of machinery and equipment coming in every day from all over the country, "from Munich to Flensburg," says the manager, Hans Joachim Stauder. "We're very optimistic."

Many companies and institutions in the industrial world must keep up with new technologies and discard equipment that is obsolescent yet in perfect working order.

The equipment is reconditioned and adapted to Third World conditions and then sold to developing countries.

TTM wants to use the Third World experience gained by charitable organisations.

First priority is medical equipment, for which there is much demand in the developing countries.

Hospitals are being asked to dig around their basements and storerooms for discarded equipment.

The equipment then goes to the TTM workshops where it is cleaned up and adapted if necessary.

## ■ THE THIRD WORLD

### Old ironmongery finds a new lease of life

TTM board member Rüdiger Herper says: "Whenever possible we try to ensure that the equipment can be operated with various types of energy — electricity, gas, steam and solar energy."

The equipment must be easy to operate and usable under a wide range of circumstances, says Herper.

Rebuilding and adapting operating theatre lamps, oxygen equipment and simple electrocardiographs is only a preliminary stage.

Self-help is the aim. The developing countries are eventually to be enabled to manufacture the equipment themselves.

But the main aim from the beginning was to provide permanent jobs for unemployed young skilled workers.

TTM wants to make the most efficient use of Labour Office job promotion funds. It can point to a study by the Labour Office's Institute for Job Market and Vocational Research which shows that financing unemployment (cost: In 1983: DM55bn) is in no way cheaper than financing the much maligned job promotion measures, ABM for short.

But the successful use of ABM funds presupposes that the money goes into creating secure jobs that will not be lost as soon as the funding stops.

It is this that gave TTM the idea to transfer adapted technology to the Third World.

Stauder: "We want to use the ABM

money to build up a permanent production and that means being competitive."

There is no doubt that TTM has found a market with great potential. Bonn Development Aid Minister Jürgen Wurme has put in DM60,000 towards the starting capital.

The Technical Cooperation Corporation, wholly owned by the Development Aid Ministry, will advise TTM in the development of new products.

This will save about DM40,000 in technical consultation charges during the two-year start-up phase.

The City of Marburg contributed DM150,000 towards equipping the workshop.

This has provided jobs for 13 young skilled workers, two of whom already have master craftsman's certificates.

They started work at the beginning of July, only one month after the society was founded.

They are paid by the State Labour Office which will pay the wages for two years.

ABM is financing this particular promotion measure in full rather than the usual 60 to 80 per cent.

It will take some months before the TTM workshop will be working in capacity. But Stauder has no doubt that once the operation is in full swing it will be successful.

He: "Our aim is naturally to find the entire hill for the payroll. But even if we initially manage in euro 50 per cent towards it we'll chalk it up as success."

Given such favourable access prospects, ABM would be wise to continue



## THE ECONOMY

### Improvement predicted, but there's doubt about how much good it will do

## DIE ZEIT

The BDI expects the 1983 output to be down another three to five per cent.

It is investment, today's motor for tomorrow's upturn, that worry the Bundesbank more than many other aspects.

Though this year has seen the first slight rise in two years, the investment ratio remains low.

But next year is supposed to see the real upturn. The economic research institutes forecast a growth of two per cent. The bankers' association even goes so far as to consider 2.5 per cent possible, describing this as a reason to "look at 1984 with some confidence."

Westdeutsche Landesbank analysts are even more optimistic about industrial output. They speak of 3.5 per cent.

But even if these forecasts are accurate, the would be little improvement for the unemployed.

"The job market remains the main problem for our economic policy despite the favourable economic development," says the bankers' association.

The "favourable development" will do no more than offset last year's decline. Taking into account that there was a negative GNP growth in 1982, this year's one per cent growth boils down to zero.

And even two or 2.5 per cent growth next year would only just be enough to

offset the decline of the past few years. And since productivity continued to rise during that period, fewer people are now needed to make the same quantity of goods.

Economic cycles are no longer what they used to be. Structural changes and saturated markets prevent the economy from rising to a markedly higher level after a crisis.

With a whiff of nostalgia, Otmar Emminger draws attention to the fact that in 1968, the first recovery year after the 1967 recession, the growth rate was 5.8 per cent and that after the 1975 recession following recovery year had a growth rate of 5.4 per cent.

Expectations for 1983 and 1984 were weak by comparison.

The economic research institutes fear that 1984 will see 2.4 million out of work (annual average) — 100,000 more than this year.

Although the Federal Labour Office reported that the seasonally adjusted number of jobless for September did not rise for the first time in three-and-a-half years, there is nothing to indicate that the number of people out of work will go down in the foreseeable future.

Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff has assured *Bild Zeitung* that there will be "no horror figure like three million jobless." But even he expects this winter's peak unemployment to reach 2.7 million.

Thus for the unemployed, it makes hardly any difference how growth rates are interpreted.

There is no likelihood of an upturn strong enough to markedly reduce unemployment, says the German Institute for Economic Research.

The Bundesbank says conditions for an upturn are not bad: "The financial

Continued on page 8

## Three of 590,000 WELT readers.



### The senior peace corps: putting experience where it is wanted

Nineteen retired people have been sent to the Third World as advisers in their specialist fields under the auspices of a Bonn-sponsored organisation, SES, since the beginning of the year.

Scholar Experts' Service provides Third World countries with expertise in the person of senior people ready to retire. They include tradesmen and people experienced in various types of business administration.

Companies using the scheme are charged travel costs, accommodation, food and a daily allowance of DM30.

Eventually another 20 per cent will be added for administrative costs to make up for the subsidy from the Bonn Development Aid Ministry which is to be dropped in 1986.

The aim of SES is not only altruistic. It is also to promote German business.

With this in mind a fund-raising drive has been launched to get money from business and keep the costs of the project as low as possible for Third World countries.

More than 600 newly retired experts, 50 per cent women, are registered with SES.

What makes a person postpone retirement and seek a responsible and often difficult job?

It is certainly not the prospect of seeing the world. Most have travelled extensively during their working lives.

Nor is it a belated quest for adventure.

Professor Dr. Hellmuth Kießling, President and CEO of the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce

As a major international enterprise we must inform ourselves daily about news and opinions. For us, DIE WELT is one of the most important sources we could not do without.

I read DIE WELT particularly because of its well told and highly informative economic pages. I greatly value the topical, factual and thoroughly researched information it provides on the most important economic events.

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### Decision makers' daily in Germany.

DIE WELT is a newspaper of the Axel Springer Publishing Group. For further information contact: DIE WELT and WELT am SONNTAG Advertising Department, Tel. Hamburg 3471

The construction industry, which was slow to spearhead the upturn, has had a tough time getting off the ground. Business has not improved in the extent the pie books seemed to indicate, says the

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### Retirement at 59 under new Bonn plan

#### The older workers

There are 800,000 workers in West Germany aged between 59 and 64.

Of these:

59 years old 251,000

60 233,000

61 152,000

62 116,000

63 101,000

64 28,000

65 19,000

66 1,000

67 100

68 100

69 100

70 100

71 100

72 100

73 100

74 100

75 100

## BUSINESS

### Complaint panel for the upset customer

Christ und Welt  
Rheinischer Merkur

People who think they have been cheated in business deals can take their complaint to a variety of arbitration panels.

There are car-repair panels, television-set repair panels, dry-cleaning panels and plumbing panels. The construction industry has a panel too.

Last year the car-repair trade's 88 panels heard about 11,500 cases.

More than half are settled without formal hearing and only one case in eight needs to be taken right through to a decision.

The panel tries to reach a compromise, and only when this fails, does it rule one way or the other.

Taking the case to the panel doesn't cost the applicant any money. Nor does it prevent him (or the car repair firm, for that matter) taking the case to the civil courts if he is not happy with the panel's decision.

The panel is not able to handle about one in four appeals because they are not within its jurisdiction. Repairs by brickyard operators for example.

The main complaint is the amount charged. Another is bad workmanship. There are not many complaints about unnecessary work.

Strangely enough the amounts involved are not always high. Most disputes deal with between DM100 and DM200.

People dissatisfied over second-hand car sales can take their case to any one of 29 panels established by the industry.

But upset customers don't have to go before a panel. Often a talk with the relevant trades organisation is enough to get an unambiguous solution.

Chambers of commerce also have many panels. A Chamber of Commerce and Industry survey shows that they handle an average of 25,000 complaints a year.

The construction industry has a panel, established in the middle of last year by the Rhine-Main Chamber of Trades.

It can draw on 35 experts in various fields of the construction industry. Disputes are usually settled quickly.

However, the panel charges a set fee,

regardless of the amount at stake, and this acts as a deterrent.

If a formal hearing is needed, the panel makes an hourly charge. This means, of course that it is hardly worth pursuing cases involving small amounts.

On the other hand, where the amount in dispute is large, the panel is still much cheaper than a civil court.

In the case of this panel, it has legal standing. The winner of a case is recognised as such legally.

No German court has the same amount of expertise as this panel.

The advantages of resorting to it become obvious in the light of the drawbacks a court case in construction matters involves: lack of expert knowledge, draw-out proceedings and total alienation between the parties.

The construction panel has received more than 200 inquiries, about equally divided between customers and construction companies.

Amounts involved range between DM30,000 and DM60,000. Some are much more.

Far from all complaints reach the formal hearing stage. Some 20 cases have been settled by compromise, probably because of the cost factor.

The Frankfurt construction panel has become known way beyond Germany. Inquiries are made from European countries but from as far afield as Windhoek in South-West Africa and Adelaide, Australia.

Naturally, however, most come from German lawyers and chambers of trade and commerce.

The Frankfurt model is likely to spread.

*Paul Bellingshausen  
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,  
11 November 1983)*

Continued from page 5

## Improvement in the economy

Continued from page 7

basis for a lasting upturn, essentially riding on investments, is better today than it has been in a long time," it says in a report.

"This could pave the way for a sustained growth and an improvement in the employment situation, but only if the overall economic climate is not subjected to new strains."

But strains are in the offing. Such sick industries as coal, steel and shipbuilding will have to resort to mass layoffs, which could easily make consumers reluctant to buy.

The most powerful economic locomotive so far has been private consumption.

But Emminger says that consumers will no longer dip into their savings and that the reduced savings rate will prove a passing phenomenon.

Export hopes are also deceptive. During a visit to Singapore, former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt warned against pinning too much hope on a recovery of world trade.

He said that it was illusory to expect the American upturn to pull the rest of the world along.

He believes that it will take another two years before there is an upturn.

It would not be until October 1985, after the American elections, that Washington would formulate a new economic policy that could reduce its massive budget deficits. This, Schmidt said, would lead to falling interest rates world-wide, a major precondition for a recovery.

Both the unions and industry have urged the government to take action.

*Richard G. von Weizsäcker  
Die Zeit, 18 November*

Proposed arrangements may well need to be made with Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino, and Spain and Portugal if they don't join the EEC.

The European Parliament has also called for uniform European regulations governing the protection of people from unsuitable transmissions and the use of advertising revenue-generating programmes.

Problems also seem likely to arise over copyright provisions.

The EEC Commission in Brussels is considering proposals, but agreement will be reached with Austria and Ireland as non-members of the Common Market.

Larger Western European countries

## J. F. Kennedy

When this guilt theory is reduced to its nucleus it will be realised that blame may be laid on Kennedy Liberalism, but not on President Kennedy himself.

When he died there were 16,000 US military advisers in South Vietnam, and no ground forces. Shortly beforehand he had ordered the withdrawal of 1,000 advisers in protest against the dictatorial behaviour of President Ngo-Dinh Diem and his brother Nhu.

A few days after his death this order was quietly countermanded, a decision that was not lacking in symbolic significance.

The Kennedy team only became dom-

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Satellite TV: swamping the viewer with pictures

Lahnau wants to help fight for a 35-hour working week.

Employers, on the other hand,

want a 35-hour week on full worsen unemployment.

Industry's fight against the

week has won support from the

Postbank President Karl Otfried

Chancellor Helmut Kohl. They

against this type of shorter

hours as a means of fighting tec-

nical lunk at regional, national and

world affairs.

The multinational and multilingual

TV future grows steadily nearer for West-

ern Europe and adjacent areas of the

EEC.

But the mills of the EEC, the Council

of Europe and even nation-states grind

exceeding slow.

Socialists, Social Democrats and other

progressive political forces are barricading

themselves in most European coun-

tries behind a Maginot line that seems

to be ridden over roughshod by

technological developments.

They will hear no wrong of the cur-

rent semi-official broadcasting cor-

porations, which they feel guarantee a modicum of political balance, social aware-

ness and even civic education.

They would prefer to see this role

maintained at national level because of

fears of foreign influence.

Rudolf Wedekind, a German Chris-

tian Democrat member of the European

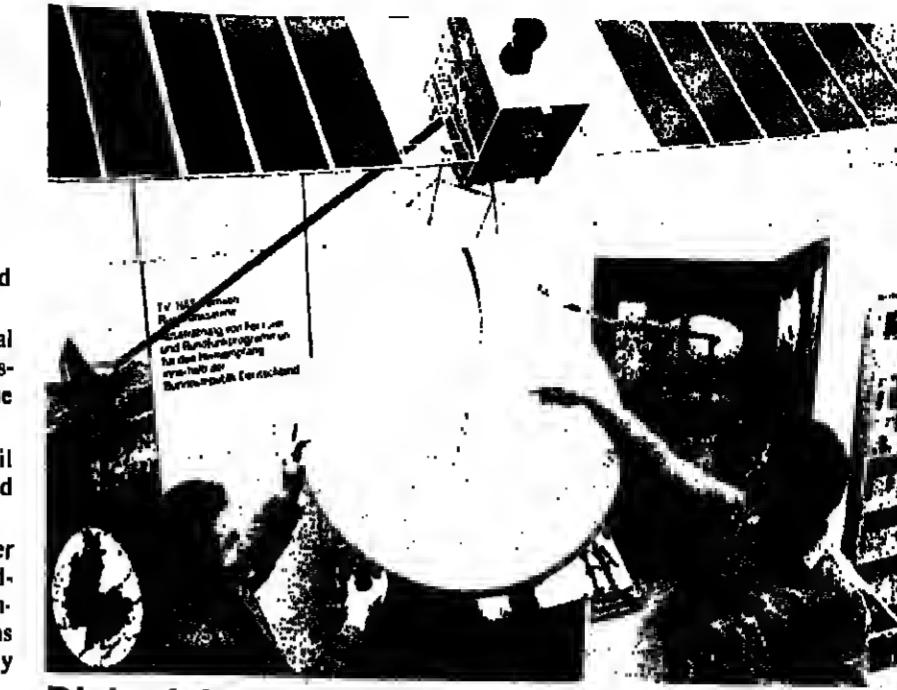
Parliament, outlined the shape of things

to come in a realistic and by no means

reactionary manner in his book *Plädoyer für das Europäische Fernsehen* (The Case for European TV).

For financial reasons the satellites run

by smaller countries would probably be



### Dish of the future

The television series of the not-so-distant future. In a few years, dish antennas such as this one made by AEG-Telefunken will be a common sight on domestic roofs.

*(Photo: AEG-Telefunken)*

formed out entirely to commercial operators.

The Bundespost lays claim to a monopoly of aerials to receive satellite TV. Herr Wedekind feels this claim is unrealistic and possibly may not stand up in court.

Many felt Granada provided just as satisfactory and impartial coverage as the semi-official broadcasting corporations in last year's experiment.

*Erich Hauser  
(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 12 November 1983)*

though many paying visitors will have been impressed by mock-up satellites or rockets, by gigantic dish antennae of ground and tracking stations.

They may well have noticed the pnee at which Saudi Arabia and Morocco, for instance, are busy expanding their telephone networks.

But what mattered most to exhibitors was the trade representatives from countries all over the world who were in Geneva to order the most suitable equipment or entire systems for their governments.

Telecommunications is a DM150bn market that could easily be doubled in size, or so the industry hopes. So the incentive is certainly there.

But for an organisation such as the ITU, with a membership of 156 countries, profit naturally matters less than what might be termed higher values.

In this case it was a matter of the free exchange of information proclaimed by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in the Helsinki accords.

Technically this free flow is no problem, it was clear in Geneva. But it is an intractable problem for the politicians.

There are states that are not very interested in the idea, especially when the free exchange is spiced with political viewpoints.

Worse still, data protection problems also arise. With the growing opportunities for transmission there is an increasing risk of confidential information being handed on.

The legal side of telecommunications has assumed much importance that it was the subject of the first-ever special symposium on the subject as part of the ITU gathering.

Then there were Belgium and Brazil, which was on its own in representing Latin America and boasted no fewer than 25 companies, including many multinationals.

Government and industry in advanced countries such as the Federal Re-

## Technology brings information — in a pandora's box

### Nordwest-Zeitung

About 650 manufacturers showed off the most advanced sound, vision and text transmission equipment at Telecom '83 in Geneva.

Their displays formed part of 70 national exhibits covering areas of up to 5,000 square metres, or one and a quarter acres, each.

The stand run by the three dozen least developed countries in the world, 36 Afro-Asian countries, was small in comparison.

They had little to show for themselves other than maps of enormous areas bereft of communications of any kind.

They symbolised the point made by Bonn Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling in terms of telephones.

Three quarters of the world's telephones, he said, were in eight industrialised countries, whereas 150 countries shared the other quarter.

Telecommunication for Everyone was the motto of Telecom '83, organised by the International Telecommunications Union.

It was a motto that was music to the ears of the world's telecom industry. Countries with few facilities if any are an enormous potential market, always providing they can afford the outlay.

There also seem to be programme and presenters who hold European and psychological views and would be capable of cooperating in such ventures.

Political and current affairs coverage, by no means abjectly pro-EEC, could merely take a Euro-

pean exhibition in the world area of 72,000 square metres. The range of facilities they had on show extended from what housewives might need to telecom systems verging on science fiction.

Between these two extremes there were the more modest stands of the Scandinavian countries (a joint stand for Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland) or, say, Austria, which featured a genuine Vienna coffee house.

Then there were Belgium and Brazil, which was on its own in representing Latin America and boasted no fewer than 25 companies, including many multinationals.

Government and industry in advanced countries such as the Federal Re-

gional exhibition was not enough, al-

though alone was not enough, al-

*Walter Meth*

*(Nordwest-Zeitung, 1 November 1983)*

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The 500 million tons of garbage a year in the Federal Republic of Germany would make a mountain as tall as the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest Alpine peak, delegates to a Berlin conference have been told.

Garbage incineration and smoke gas purification were discussed by about 350 experts from 11 countries. Other facts that emerged were:

Twenty-nine million tons is household garbage, which means that every man, woman and child in the country junks about half a ton of trash a year. And the figure is on the increase.

About 30 per cent of household garbage is disposed of in the 43 West German garbage incinerators. The first facility of this kind was built in Hamburg in 1896.

Nowadays most garbage incinerators do more than reduce the volume of domestic waste; they also generate electric power or provide piped heating.

A tonne of domestic waste will supply one and a half megawatts of piped heating. But garbage incineration imposes a heavy burden on the environment.

First, the remaining waste still has to be dumped or disposed of. Second, garbage contains much more problematic substances than are found in coal or oil.

On incineration they are either sent directly or indirectly as compounds. They include heavy metals, hydrocarbons and chlorine and fluorine products.

The Berlin conference looked into ways of purifying what is sent up the incinerator chimney stack, given that since 1974 newly-built garbage incinerators have had to comply with strict limits for chlorine and fluorine compounds in the smoke they release into the atmosphere.

Smoke purification devices are now planned, under construction or already in operation at roughly 75 per cent of West German garbage incinerators, the conference organiser said.

He was Professor Thome-Kozmiensky of the department of technical environmental protection at the Technical University, West Berlin.

He said it was thus high time to compare the various purification processes and analyse their respective weak points.

Smoke gas purification is not the be-all and end-all; it is sometimes made out to be. The problems that have arisen in connection with the various processes include their degree of efficiency, chemicals requirement and corrosion and the liquid and solid residue they leave behind.

Take the residue problem. In the wet wash process, which has so far predominated in practice, chlorine and fluorine compounds and, to a certain extent, sulphur dioxide are literally washed out of the smoke with water.

The washing water is extremely acid and thus needs to be neutralised using calcium hydroxide. The sludge is then separated from the water in a basin where it is given time to settle.

Yet the waste water remains strongly salinated and in many cases cannot be fed to a purification plant, let alone pumped into a river.

This effluent then had to be evaporated, Dr Fichtel of the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency told the conference.

That left chloride, calcium and a little sulphate, all of which had to be protected from rainfall, or else they would dissolve in water again.

The effluent also contained a range of heavy metals, of which mercury was particularly problematic.

At the incinerator in Bamberg, for in-

## THE ENVIRONMENT

# Smoke problems from incinerating garbage

stance, the mercury count in the effluent regularly exceeded the limit beyond which water could not be pumped into the local-authority sewage grid.

So experiments had been undertaken with a chemical to make the mercury precipitate. About three kilograms of mercury a day had been extracted from the effluent in this way.

The sludge resulting from the washing process had a very high metal count. The better the process worked, the more heavy metal was separated.

But dried sludge could, unlike effluent, be stored as a raw material for a domestic garbage dump.

Dr Schmidt-Tegge of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in West Berlin said care must be taken to prevent the transfer of toxins from the air to the water cycle in future.

That would mean incinerator chimney smoke had to be dry-cleaned, a process of which experience has also been gained.

Smoke fumes at the Düsseldorf incinerator are cleaned by a technique described as semi-dry.

"The process is a mixture of the wet washing and the dry-cleaning techniques that largely avoids the drawbacks of each," said Dr Marten of Düsseldorf.

A reagent is sprayed into the hot smoke, where it forms compounds with the acid components, such as hydro-

**T**he money doesn't stink, the Roman Emperor Vespasian is reported to have said when surveying the proceeds of a tax on toilets.

This aphorism could arguably be used to fit the findings of a conference on biological sewage purification held in Krefeld.

It may even be said to have applied in a twofold sense. Technical and microbiological improvements are making biological purification more effective and odourless, for one.

For another, biological purification can not only recoup costs but even make a profit, or so the VDI, or German Engineers' Association, which organised the gathering, claims.

Effluent purification is usually a two-stage process, the first being a mechanical stage at which some impurities are separated as sediment and sludge.

In the second, biological stage, micro-organisms are set to work to eat up the waste. They are usually aerobic bacteria that need an ample supply of oxygen for reproduction and for processing organic impurities (i.e. oxidising them into carbon dioxide and water).

In many purification plants the oxygen is merely available on the surface of the water in the basins, so basins have to be wide and shallow.

Bio-reactors, which are space- and energy-saving, are slimline towers in which air, including oxygen, is passed not just over the surface but throughout the water.

Air is fed to the bed of the reactor and spread by nozzles in the form of tiny bubbles that slowly rise to the surface, releasing oxygen as they go.

The oxygen in the air is put to better use in tall basins that in the conventional squat variety because the bubbles

iodide, hydrofluoride, sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide.

The humidity evaporates in the heat, the dry neutral salts are filtered out together with the dust in the smoke. No effluent is left over.

In wet washing the smoke is chilled to below its point of condensation. In the Düsseldorf process it isn't, so there are no problems with corrosion.

In Düsseldorf the neutral salts are being stored on a garbage tip for the time being. But they might well be used, or so it is felt, in roadbuilding, for noise-abatement embankments and the like.

That would be in keeping with a further demand made by Dr Schmidt-Tegge, who wanted to see more attention paid to the reuse of residue reclaimed from the smoke.

The fluidised bed drier is totally dry in its manner of operation. The smoke is passed through calcium hydroxide at high pressure. Toxin particles settle on the calcium hydroxide.

This technique has been found most satisfactory at Schwandorf garbage-fired power station, although the residue has to be stored on a special dump because of its high content of easily soluble substances.

It amounted to between 50kg and 70kg per tonne of garbage, said Herr Keller-Reinsch of Sanberg-Höltz-Lurgi GmbH.

## Purification of sewage 'can be profitable'

are in the water for longer and give off more of their oxygen.

Bio-reactors are already in operation in several German cities. They carry out biological sewage purification in a way that saves space and eliminates smell and noise.

For industrial effluent the bacteria count needs to be increased and the biochemical activity boosted. Heinz Brauer and associates at the Technical University, West Berlin, have devised an elevating jet reactor for this purpose.

The elevation is provided by punched discs arranged above each other in a cylinder and powered hydraulically. Edges form at the holes.

This ensures that the bacteria tend to cling less and to expose a larger surface area to the effluent.

It also ensures that the air bubbles are constantly renewed, guaranteeing the best conceivable oxygen supply to the bacteria.

The elevating jet reactor can purify in between 15 and 30 minutes even extremely dirty effluent.

It is a small but high-powered purification unit that can decentralise the process, making it possible to treat effluent where it occurs.

A further advantage of decentralisation, according to Herr Cremer of the VDI in Düsseldorf, was that bacteria could be bred specially to deal with the specific type of effluent.

That shows in a particularly striking manner what close cooperation between

## MEDICINE

# Allergies still a blotch or one in five

Special storage is fairly which is why ways of solid residue are currently being sought.

So a complicated and expensive technology (costly to install and run) is needed to extract only some of them, from the

It would be more sensible never to find their way into the first place, and that is the hind Dr Schmidt-Tegge's think.

in five Germans has an allergy.

Prevention, he said, was impor-

tant. Fewer toxins should be used in products and greater care

be taken in disposing of them.

Synthetics, said Professor Löw, house dust when he wrote the "Technician University, Vienna, Remembrance of Things Past", accounted for 70 per cent of the cases living today, he could have been

50 per cent of the cadmium, 30 per cent of the sulphur and significant amounts of lead, fluorine and nitrogen.

Richard III of England turned

after eating strawberries that had been decked by his taster, the cook

Synthetic waste might have est heating value but its use is problematic because of its high toxicity.

Even if garbage contained

sooty chimney smoke defined

as Richard III, a 12-year-old boy died after being tossed into

an unheated swimming pool by his father.

What they did not know was

that he was allergic to cold.

There is no clear explanation

for this state of affairs. The cause of such a reaction: shortness of

breath, skin eruptions, itching.

It remains to be seen how this

to be disposed of. Individual

the pithole can do little. Most

heavy metal evidently finds its

way into the environment in

the soil.

Once the allergen has been pinpointed comes the even more difficult task of

eliminating it.

Telling a patient that he is allergic to eggs is useless because the substances

found in them also exist in bread, sweets

and even in Cumpari.

This makes it even more difficult to

eliminate the culprit antigen.

People who are allergic to air pollution

or pollen are often forced to change

their occupation or move to another

place.

A new approach called "specific de-

sensitisation" consists in administering

small doses of the patient's antigen.

The treatment can extend over weeks

or months or, indeed, years. But it has

proved successful in 50 per cent of

cases. Nobody knows why.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 20 November 1983)

The effects also vary widely. Some patients' noses clog up daily at 5.00 p.m. Other people are sensitive to pollen in the second half of the year but are unaffected by it in the first half.

Dr Wolfgang Jorde, who heads the asthmatic hospital in Mühlengleudach, has tried to arrange the various antigens into categories:

• Allergy against food and medicine can be caused by milk, protein, eggs, fish, fruit, legumes, etc.

• Inhalation allergy that can lead to asthma can be caused by mushroom spores and pollen, household dust, wool and even the flakes on the sponge's skin.

• Skin allergies are put down to cosmetics, fur, flowers, metals, detergents and, in some cases, Christmas trees.

But it is still unknown why some people react in contact with an antigen by forming masses of antibodies while others are spared.

It takes a great deal of medical sleuthing to isolate relevant antigens. In fact, it takes exhaustive tests to determine if a suspected allergy actually exists.

The patient is injected with heavily diluted allergen extracts. The idea is to bring about an AAR conflict under controlled conditions and restrict it to a limited area.

The process can be risky. In some

people, one-millionth of a gram of antigen

is enough to cause a life-threatening anaphylactic shock. Many general practitioners are therefore hesitant to make the tests.

It remains to be seen how this

to be disposed of. Individual

the pithole can do little. Most

heavy metal evidently finds its

way into the environment in

the soil.

New processes were pro-

posed.

Some occupations, such as spray-

painting, chemistry and pharmaceutical

work, one in three people have an al-

lergy reaction.

Why some people are allergic to

substances remains a mystery.

Provided it contains no heavy

metals, it is fine fertilizer.

The production of enormous

amounts of sewage sludge is a hy-

drolytic process.

Some substances, such as spray-

painting, chemistry and pharmaceutical

work, one in three people have an al-

lergy reaction.

They don't need to be filled with

chemicals to be effective.

They're contacts with a foreign pro-

tein.

The reaction is called an antigen-

The 500 million tons of garbage a year in the Federal Republic of Germany would make a mountain as tall as the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest Alpine peak, delegates to a Berlin conference have been told.

Garbage incineration and smoke gas purification were discussed by about 350 experts from 11 countries. Other facts that emerged were:

Twenty-nine million tons a household garbage, which means that every man, woman and child in the country junks about half a ton of trash a year. And the figure is on the increase.

About 30 per cent of household garbage is disposed of in the 43 West German garbage incinerators. The first facility of this kind was built in Hamburg in 1896.

Nowadays most garbage incinerators do more than reduce the volume of domestic waste; they also generate electric power or provide piped heating.

A tonne of domestic waste will supply one and a half megawatts of piped heating. But garbage incineration imposes a heavy burden on the environment.

First, the remaining waste still has to be dumped or disposed of. Second, garbage contains much more problematic substances than are found in coal or oil.

On incineration they are either sent directly or indirectly as compounds. They include heavy metals, hydrocarbons and chlorine and fluorine products.

The Berlin conference looked into ways of purifying what is sent up the incinerator chimney stack, given that since 1974 newly-built garbage incinerators have had to comply with strict limits for chlorine and fluorine compounds in the smoke they release into the atmosphere.

Smoke purification devices are now planned, under construction or already in operation at roughly 75 per cent of West German garbage incinerators, the conference organisers said.

He was Professor Thome-Kozmiensky of the department of technical environmental protection of the Technical University, West Berlin.

He said it was thus high time to compare the various purification processes and analyse their respective weak points.

Smoke gas purification is not the be-all and end-all it is sometimes made out to be. The problems that have arisen in connection with the various processes include their degree of efficiency, chemicals requirement and corrosion and the liquid and solid residue they leave behind.

The residue problem. In the wet wash process, which has so far predominated in practice, chlorine and fluorine compounds and, to a certain extent, sulphur dioxide are literally washed out of the smoke with water.

The washing water is extremely acid and thus needs to be neutralised using calcium hydroxide. The sludge is then separated from the water in a basin where it is given time to settle.

Yet the waste water remains strongly salinated and in many cases cannot be fed to a purification plant, let alone pumped into a river.

This affluent then had to be evaporated, Dr Fichtel of the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency told the conference.

That left chloride, calcium and a little sulphate, all of which had to be protected from rainfall, or else they would dissolve in water again.

The affluent also contained a range of heavy metals, of which mercury was particularly problematic.

At the incinerator in Bamberg, for in-

## ■ THE ENVIRONMENT

# Smoke problems from incinerating garbage

stance, the mercury count in the effluent regularly exceeded the limit beyond which water could not be pumped into the local-authority sewage grid.

So experiments had been undertaken with a chemical to make the mercury precipitate. About three kilograms of mercury a day had been extracted from the effluent in this way.

The sludge resulting from the washing process had a very high metal count. The better the process worked, the more heavy metal was separated.

But dried sludge could, unlike effluent, be stored as a rule on a domestic garbage dump.

Dr Schmidt-Tegge of the Federal Environmental Protection Agency in West Berlin said care must be taken to prevent the transfer of toxins from the air to the water cycle in future.

That would mean incinerator chimney smoke had to be dry-cleaned, a process of which experience has also been gained.

Smoke fumes at the Düsseldorf incinerator are cleaned by a technique described as semi-dry.

"The process is a mixture of the wet washing and the dry-cleaning techniques that largely avoids the drawbacks of each," said Dr Mornet of Düsseldorf.

A reagent is sprayed into the hot smoke, where it forms compounds with the acid components, such as hydroch-

loride, hydrofluoride, sulphur dioxide and carbon dioxide.

The humidity evaporates in the heat, the dry neutral salts are filtered out together with the dust in the smoke. No effluent is left over.

In wet washing the smoke is chilled to below its point of condensation. In the Düsseldorf process it isn't, so there are no problems with corrosion.

In Düsseldorf the neutral salts are being stored on a garbage tip for the time being. But they might well be used, or as it is, in roadbuilding, for noise-abatement embankments and the like.

That would be in keeping with a further demand made by Dr Schmidt-Tegge, who wanted to see more attention paid to the reuse of residue reclaimed from the smoke.

The fluidised bed drier is totally dry in its manner of operation. The smoke is passed through a calcium hydroxide powder at high pressure. Toxin particles settle on the calcium hydroxide.

This technique has been found most unsatisfactory at Schwandorf garbage-fired power station, although the residue has to be stored on a special dump because of its high content of easily soluble substances.

It amounted to between 50kg and 70kg per tonne of garbage, said Herr Keller-Reinsch of Stuhrberg-Höltz-Lurgi GmbH.

## Purification of sewage 'can be profitable'

The money doesn't stink, the Roman Emperor Vespasian is reported to have said when surveying the proceeds of a tax on toilets.

This epithet could arguably be said to fit the findings of a conference on biological sewage purification held in Kreifeld.

It may even be sold to have applied in a twofold sense. Technical and microbiological improvements are making biological purification more effective and odourless, for one.

For another, biological purification can not only recoup costs but even make a profit, or so the VDI, or German Engineers' Association, which organised the gathering, claims.

Effluent purification is usually a two-stage process, the first being a mechanical stage at which some impurities are separated as sediment and sludge.

In the second, biological stage, micro-organisms are set to work to eat up the waste. They are usually aerobic bacteria that need an ample supply of oxygen for reproduction and for processing organic impurities (i.e. oxidising them into carbon dioxide and water).

The washing water is extremely acid and thus needs to be neutralised using calcium hydroxide. The sludge is then separated from the water in a basin where it is given time to settle.

Yet the waste water remains strongly salinated and in many cases cannot be fed to a purification plant, let alone pumped into a river.

This affluent then had to be evaporated, Dr Fichtel of the Bavarian Environmental Protection Agency told the conference.

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The affluent also contained a range of heavy metals, of which mercury was particularly problematic.

At the incinerator in Bamberg, for in-

## MEDICINE

# Allergies still a blotch or one in five

Special storage is fairly which is why ways of solid residue are currently being sought.

So a complicated and expensive technology (costly to install and run) is needed to extract the only some of them, from the air.

It would be more sensible never to find their way into the first place, and that's what Dr Schmidt-Tegge thinks.

One in five Germans has an allergy. Prevention, he said, was best. Allergy research is still in its infancy. Fewer toxins should be used in products and greater care taken in disposing of them.

Synthetics, said Professor Marcel Pronst, account for 70 per cent of what we live today, he could have been 50 per cent of the cadmium, 30 per cent of the sulphur and significant Richard III of England turned of the lead, fluorine and strontium eating strawberries that had boge.

Synthetic waste might have been back to normal a day later but est heating value it was Council Lord he disliked was

Even if garbage contained synthetic materials, chimney smoke deformed swimming pool by his death, Washington, a 12-year-old boy died after being tossed into

Organic waste is little dry in its manner of operation. The smoke is passed through a calcium hydroxide powder at high pressure. Toxin particles settle on the calcium hydroxide.

This technique has been found most unsatisfactory at Schwandorf garbage-fired power station, although the residue has to be stored on a special dump because of its high content of easily soluble substances.

There is no clear explanation for this state of affairs. It is not the consequence of such a reaction: shortness of breath, skin eruptions, itching, etc.

It remains to be seen how this can be disposed of. Individual measures of the public can do little. Medical research is long time

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## Why cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less

Cigarettes should have more nicotine, not less, says a cancer specialist.

Professor Ferdinand Schmidt writes in *Medical Tribune* that low-nicotine cigarettes only make the smoker smoke more to get the desired level of nicotine.

If cigarettes had more nicotine, smokers would be satisfied with fewer of them.

tar, carbon monoxide and other poisonous substances should be reduced, he wrote, but not nicotine.

He also suggested the use of natural tobacco in cigarettes because the toasted variety is inhaled more deeply.

It would be relatively easy for the Bonn Health Ministry to pass the necessary regulations.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 18 November 1983)

## School stress takes a toll of pupils

School often triggers psychosomatic illness in children, says an article in the medical journal *Arzliche Praxis*.

The head of the psychosomatic department of Münster University's children's clinic, Professor Ingeborg Jochmus, writes that more children are being referred to psychiatrists.

Studies made in Heidelberg and Tübingen showed that in 1960 only one child in 12 had to be referred to a child psychiatrist, because of problems at school. The figure in 1969 was one in five and in 1976 one in three.

Professor Jochmus: "In addition to their school problems, these children suffered from insomnia, nightmares, bed-wetting, muscle twitching, involuntary reflex movements, stuttering, early morning nausea and other digestive tract disorders."

She blames school stress on several factors: "They are only partly due to our having developed into performance-oriented society and the youngsters' uncertain future."

Filters were also useless as a protection against stomach and duodenal cancer and ulcers, cancer of the mouth and other types of tumour.

Professor Schmidt suggests reducing the tar, carbon monoxide and other poisonous substances in cigarettes but not nicotine.

Fear played a major role in psychosomatic disorders caused by school. An example: a child knows that it is weak in spelling. If it knows that it will have to take dictation at school the next day, worry leads to insomnia. This is often followed by listlessness and vomiting before leaving home.

The child arrives at school frightened and without having slept properly. The sugar level in the blood would go down markedly. Failure in the test was the result.

Professor Jochmus: "Most children are afraid that coming home with poor marks will distress their parents. Fear of failure is heightened by the parents' high expectations. The insomnia and the psychosomatic symptoms before going to school are thus intensified."

The disappointed parents imposed restrictions. This led to more problems.

She suggests that new insights into psychological diagnosis should provide the basis of a therapy. In the case she cited, the first thing to do would be to find out whether the child suffered from dyslexia or whether the underlying cause was an inability to concentrate.

Pills could only help as a support for educational and psychotherapeutic measures. In some cases, transfer to another school to ease the pressure on the child may more could help.

(Bayerische Nachrichten, 19 November 1983)

## Food contamination reports are exaggerated, dietists say

Quality control of food in Germany has improved greatly. In recent years, a meeting of German food experts has been held.

Consumers had been unnecessarily alarmed by reports of harmful substances in food. There were very few cases where contaminants exceeded prescribed limits.

The meeting, of the Frankfurt-based dietary society, dealt with contamination of food by heavy metals, nitrates, insecticides and agricultural drugs.

Professor Wolfgang Gedek of the Bavarian Veterinary Authority said that the reaction to the food was probably to be attributed to the formation of substances formed within the food.

He felt the anaerobic protein antigen-antibody reaction (AAT) was the reaction to the food.

If the food output were taken into account, the entire cost of anaerobic protein antigen-antibody reaction could be blamed on this organization.

What was more, the cost of the food was not all allergic reactions — ranging from lightness to fatal circulation.

It was justified to use these growth promoting substances. They were essential if the animals were to gain weight rapidly and make better use of their feed.

Animal farming on today's scale would be impossible without these aids.

Compared with this, the nitrosamines absorbed by non-smokers.

Professor Johannes-Friedrich Diehl of the Federal Food Research Centre in

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 November 1983)

(Westdeutsche Zeitung, 11 November 1983)

(Die Welt, 18 November 1983)</

Sammel  
Belegheftet

The German population is declining. Families are becoming smaller. If the birth rates continue to be the world's lowest, there will be only 38 million Germans in the year 2030, Bonn Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler told the German Paediatric Society.

It was regrettable that more and more children were growing up without brothers and sisters. The average German family now had only 1.5 children.

One-child families are also becoming prevalent among the members of parliament. In the Adenauer era there were many MPs with large families. Not now. Right now only three MPs have none children.

Today, 57 per cent of German families have only one child. Growing up without brothers and sisters, once regarded as a curse, is now common.

The only child was once seen as being spoilt and selfish. And the moment it behaved differently from other children, people would say: "What can you expect? It's an only child."

"It is now known that the child is not the problem case it was once made out to be," says Bonn psychology Professor Ursula Lehr.

But prejudices towards the one-child family are still deep-rooted.

America started re-thinking on this after the first astronauts went to the moon: It turned out that each was an only child. All were picked for their outstanding intelligence, daring and stamina.

Was it mere coincidence that all these astronauts grew up without brothers and sisters and therefore had parental love lavished on them? Psychologists — not only in the USA — began to look into this question.

Some time ago, the German Research Association commissioned two sociolo-

## ■ MODERN LIVING

# Changing attitudes towards the only child

gists to study the lives of women who had carved out a career for themselves.

They found that 70 per cent of these women — politicians, top civil servants, managers, entrepreneurs, architects, scientists and journalists — either grew up as only children or with brothers and sisters far apart in age.

The fact that these women found themselves in a 'pioneer situation' from birth moulded their attitudes in later life," the two sociologists say.

The women they interviewed were not afraid to tackle something new. They were dynamic and did not shirk decisions.

Psychologists say this self-confidence, the basis of success in business and society, is because of the added attention first-born children receive.

Both mother and father devote most of their affection to their first child. If this child remains the only one, it continues to receive this undivided affection until it reaches adulthood.

Psychologist Magda Neuerer says: "In this way, the only child is spared many a frustration."

In her book *Elternlexikon* (Parents' Encyclopedia) she explains why the only child usually copes with life rather well: its parents often both work and therefore do not have the time to fuss.

This makes the child substitute school friends for brothers and sisters. Parents, too, have changed in the past

years: fathers are no longer as authoritarian as they used to be, and mothers have increasingly assumed the role of a friend. There is generally more of an atmosphere of friendship than a few decades ago.

The only child is, however, in danger of being over-cosseted by its parents. Some mothers are too protective, which does not encourage initiative in the child.

It is important for the only child to experience life in a group, psychologists say. Even as a six-month-old, it should spend a few hours a week playing with other children of the same age to learn social attitudes. "In addition, only children need a challenge," says Magda Neuerer.

It is wrong for parents to smooth all difficulties for them. Children who receive too much attention in the family will later demand the same attention from society. They want to continue being the focal point.

Psychologists are pretty much agreed that in most cases the only child's intellectual development is splendid in a normal family.

It is imaginative, knows how to express itself, and its arguments are clever. It is usually highly motivated, though it frequently has problems within a group because it has not learned to adjust.

But psychologists warn against over-emphasising this because children from large families also tend to grow up with problems.

Studies show that many of those children from big families are not particularly successful at school until in their working lives. They lack motivation and are often not capable of expressing themselves.

The larger the family, the greater the likelihood of an authoritarian upbringing with many "don'ts." This leads to a certain rivalry among children, leading to unresolved frustrations.

Such an atmosphere makes it difficult to develop positive sentiments towards the parents.

Young people's reactions to both an authoritarian and an over-protective upbringing are similar. In both cases they increasingly seek refuge among others of the same age, whose influence becomes dominant.

"The Germans are headed towards becoming a society of only children," says Frankfurt sociologist Dr Almut Steger.

This trend would become more pronounced, and in the year 2000 more than 20 per cent of the population would live in one-person households, she says in a study.

No matter how much the family affairs minister deplores this, all indicators show that birth rate will decline still further.

Though this is the time when those born in the high birth rate years will find families, the subsequent trend will be downward again, experts say.

Predicts Almut Steger says some 40 per cent of women capable of child bearing will remain childless around the year 2000. The trend towards one-child families will increase as early as next decade.

Sigrid Latka-Johring

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 November 1983)

Al Sol Bach The cinema

Continued from page

Gehhardt gave him to ready, hurts, the same rage."

He indignantly rejects speculation: "What's supposed to mean? That our actions are not governed by financial success because I'm convinced that any such record prove wrong."

But why do the Bachmeier story is a growing problem in all built-up areas? In Hamburg the police and the law have forced the police and the law to crack down on a flurry of activity.

Several departments have been set up

staffed with under-cover agents,

public prosecutors and judges

have been appointed to crack down

on organised crime in northern Germany

based around Hamburg's red

district of St Pauli.

It is safer than it used to be for

to the strip clubs and clip joints.

And that's why private film com-

panies are no longer robbed or

inflated bills at pistol-point

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